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IT'S YOUR COOP



IF you had a valuable piece of property—a motor, tractor or elevator, let's say—you'd think twice before you'd let that expensive equipment suffer even slight neglect. You'd watch over it.

That's the way it is with your REA Cooperative. You and your neighbors own your Co-op just as surely as you own your motor or other money-making tool. You have an actual dollar and cents interest in it. It's your property, not the property of the government or some absentee stockholder. It's a private business, operated locally to serve you. Your own Co-op trustees, for whom you have voted, run your Co-op business, on behalf of you and your fellow members.

That is why it is important that you take an active interest in your Cooperative's affairs. Your rural electric Cooperative—of which you are a joint owner—is your business, serving you and your neighbors just as your motor, tractor or other tools work for you. When you become a Co-op member, you become a part-owner in that business.

At your annual Co-op meeting, the trustees you elected will tell you how your business is doing. They will report on how much money the Co-op took in and paid out, and how much it has paid back to the Federal government on its REA loan.

There you will see how this business is working for you, and how it is making it possible for you and your fellow Co-op members to own your own electric service industry, after the REA loan is fully paid.

At the annual meeting you will elect the directors or trustees of your Co-op. A good board of directors can mean the difference between good service and poor service—between being in the black or the red—between a successful, respected community enterprise and a failure.

At the meeting you will be able to speak your mind about how your Cooperative is being run, and make suggestions or criticisms as you see fit. If you think that certain action should be taken for the benefit of the Cooperative—which means for your own benefit and that of your neighbors—you can air your views with the assurance that they will be given full attention.

You can help your Cooperative in many ways—the list on the opposite side of this page will help you and your family to score yourselves on how good cooperators you are.

But certainly you can help your Co-op at least once a year by coming to the annual meeting, by electing trustees who can do a good job of running your business in your behalf.

Remember—the REA Co-op is *your* Co-op!



Reserve

FEB 26 1947

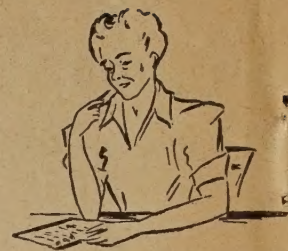
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HOW GOOD A COOPERATOR ARE YOU?

Score Yourself On These Simple Tests



Time: 3 Minutes For Each Test



HOW MANY WAYS ARE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HELPING YOUR REA CO-OP?

YES NO

- ☐ ☐ We read our electric meter each month accurately and on time.
- ☐ ☐ We send in our check promptly for the electricity we have used.
- ☐ ☐ We notify our Cooperative office promptly when the power fails, after checking to see if our neighbor's power is off, too.
- ☐ ☐ We report quickly to the Cooperative office any damage to Co-op property, whether or not it involves an interruption to service.
- ☐ ☐ We notify the Co-op of any line obstruction—trees, shrubs, etc.—without trying to remove such obstruction by ourselves.
- ☐ ☐ We report to the Co-op for inspection of new wiring (It's a good idea to tell your Co-op of your wiring *plans*, too.)
- ☐ ☐ We urge neighbors who have not yet applied for Co-op power, to sign up for it.
- ☐ ☐ We take care of repairs in our electrical equipment without bothering the Co-op office.
- ☐ ☐ We *do* call the Co-op for needed repairs on the service coming from the highline to our farm, or an electrician in case of house wiring trouble. We don't try to make such repairs ourselves.
- ☐ ☐ We attend annual meetings every year and contribute our ideas about how the Co-op might be improved.
- ☐ ☐ We cooperate with our Co-op by answering promptly its requests for specific information about our service or our use of power.
- ☐ ☐ We have performed one or more voluntary services for the Co-op in addition to those above.

Score two points for every question checked YES

How Do You Stand?

18 to 24 points—excellent

12 to 16 points—good

Less than 12—better resolve to take a more active interest in your Co-op affairs.

HOW MANY OF THESE QUESTIONS CAN YOU ANSWER ABOUT YOUR CO-OP?

- ☐ How does the Co-op use the money you pay for service?
- ☐ How much of it is spent for power?
- ☐ What happens to any surplus? Is the Co-op able to build up reserves?
- ☐ Is your Co-op meeting its obligations on the loan from the government?
- ☐ How can a farm get power?
- ☐ What's the outlook for getting electricity for folks still without it?
- ☐ Do you understand the REA principle of area coverage?
- ☐ What can you do to help hold costs down?
- ☐ When the REA loan is paid off, who will own your Co-op?
- ☐ What should you do if your power goes off?
- ☐ What can you do to help hold costs down?
- ☐ Who are the candidates for Co-op trustees this year? What are their qualifications for directing your Co-op affairs?

Score two points for each question you check.

How Do You Stand?

18 to 24 points—excellent

8 to 16 points—good

Less than 8—better find out the answers at your annual meeting.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION *REA* U.S.D.A.

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